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1. (Twice Amended) A method of sealing a skin incision for performing a minimally invasive surgical procedure at a surgical site in a body, said method comprising:

providing a sealing device comprising a tube having a proximal end and a distal end, an inner bore and an outer surface, said proximal end having a larger outer diameter than said distal end, and an inflatable membrane disposed within said inner bore, said sealing device further comprising a plurality of protrusions extending inwardly from said inflatable membrane, said plurality of protrusions extending inwardly engaging one another to form a seal upon inflation of the inflatable membrane;

making an incision in the body;

inserting said distal end of said sealing device through said incision;

advancing said sealing device through said incision to form a seal between said incision and said outer surface of said outer bore; and

inflating said inflatable membrane.

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9. (Twice Amended) A method of sealing a skin incision for performing a minimally invasive surgical procedure at a surgical site in a body, said method comprising:

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providing a sealing device comprising a tube having a proximal end and a distal end, an inner bore and an outer surface, said proximal end having a larger outer diameter than said distal end, an inflatable membrane disposed within said inner bore, said inflatable membrane being adapted to completely fill said inner bore when inflated and to leave an open lumen through said inner bore when deflated, said sealing device further comprising a plurality of protrusions extending inwardly from said inflatable membrane, said plurality of protrusions

extending inwardly engaging one another to form a seal upon inflation, [and ]wherein said tube

further comprises a plurality of protrusions extending from said outer surface of said tube;

making an incision in the body;

inserting said distal end of said sealing device through said incision;

advancing said sealing device through said incision to form a seal between said

incision and said outer surface of said outer bore; and

inflating said inflatable membrane.

12. (Amended) The method of claim [1] further comprising:

insufflating the surgical site.

13. (Amended) The method of claim [1] further comprising:

inserting a surgical instrument through said sealing device and into the surgical

site.

Please add the following new claims:

16. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

deflating the inflatable member sufficiently to allow passage of a surgical tool

through said inner bore of the sealing device while substantially maintaining a seal between said

inflatable membrane and said surgical tool; and

14. performing a surgical procedure through the incision with said surgical tool.

17. (New) The method of claim 9 further comprising: